

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 ACDA-05 /063 W

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P R 281633Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6208

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 02336

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, FR

SUBJECT: QUAI BELIEVES BREZHNEV ABOUT TO REEMERGE

1. SUMMARY: QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OMNES TOLD EMBOFF JANUARY 28 THAT SIGNS ARE INCREASING THAT BREZHNEV WILL REAPPEAR AROUND THE MIDDLE OF FEBRUARY AND MAY RESUME FAIRLY ACTIVE SCHEDULE THROUGH 1975. END SUMMARY.

2. FOR ONE, THERE IS AN INCREASING VOLUME OF REPORTS BY SOVIET REPS TO EFFECT THAT BREZHNEV IS ABOUT TO REAPPEAR. MORE IMPORTANT, IN QUAI'S VIEW, IS FACT THAT SOVIETS HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO POSTPONE PRIME MINISTER WILSON'S
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IMPENDING VISIT TO MOSCOW, WHICH BREZHNEV IS BOUND TO

HOST AND WHICH WILL PROVIDE FIRST CLEAR TEST OF HIS CONDITION. QUAI ALSO HAS IMPRESSION MOSCOW HAS SO FAR MADE NO ATTEMPT TO CALL OFF OTHER BREZHNEV VISITS ABROAD IN 1975, WHICH IT BELIEVES HAD BEEN IN VARIOUS STAGES OF TENTATIVE DISCUSSION. ACCORDING TO OMNES, THIS INCLUDES POSSIBLE BREZHNEV VISITS TO ITALY THIS SUMMER AND TO YUGOSLAVIA LATER THIS YEAR. QUAI HAS ALSO NOTED PRESIDENT FORD'S RECENT REFERENCE TO BREZHNEV'S EXPECTED VISIT TO WASHINGTON THIS SUMMER. TAKEN TOGETHER, QUAI THEREFORE BELIEVES THAT BREZHNEV MAY IN FACT BE PLANNING RELATIVELY VIGOROUS PERSONAL PROGRAM FOR THE COMING YEAR.

3. TURNING TO POSSIBLE REASONS FOR BREZHNEV'S LONG RETREAT, OMNES TOLD EMBOFF THAT SOVIET DIPLOMAT IN WARSAW HAD BEEN SOURCE OF JANUARY 21 AGENCE FRANCE PRESS REPORT TO EFFECT THAT BREZHNEV HAD HAD A HEART ATTACK ON DECEMBER 19. HOWEVER, FRENCH HAD NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS STORY AND TENDED TO DISCOUNT IT.

4. OMNES WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN REASONS FOR SOVIET AMBASSADOR YEFREMOV'S SUDDEN DEPARTURE FROM EAST BERLIN (BERLIN 151), FOR WHICH FRENCH REPORTING TELEGRAM, SHOWN TO EMBOFF, OFFERED NO EXPLANATION. QUAI HAS NO INDICATION SO FAR OF RECALL OF OTHER CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, BUT IS WATCHING THIS SITUATION CLOSELY AND OFFERED TO EXCHANGE INFO WITH US. SPECIFICALLY, OMNES WAS INTERESTED IN SOVIET AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN'S PLANS TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON, IF ANY, AND ASKED IF EMBASSY COULD QUERY DEPARTMENT FOR ANY OTHER INDICATIONS, BESIDES YEFREMOV'S DEPARTURE, THAT SIGNIFICANT KREMLIN MEETING MIGHT BE UNDER WAY.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD FIND QUICK DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO OMNES' QUESTIONS PARA 4 MOST HELPFUL. RUSH

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